

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants respectfully request that the following paragraph be inserted on page 4 of the specification, immediately above the paragraph beginning “Fig. 1 shows the induction of maturation . . .” and ending “. . . compared to stimulated cells in Fig. 1b.” (which appears in the *original* specification at page 4, line 26 - page 5, line 7):

Applicants hereby state that all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a U.S. patent based upon this application.

Applicants respectfully request that the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 26 and ending at page 19, line 8 be deleted and replaced therewith:

To screen for antibodies with agonistic activity, the selected supernatants containing CD40 binding antibodies were subsequently tested for their ability to induce IL-8 production in the CD40 expressing monocytic cell line THP-1, which had been pre-incubated with IFN- γ . ~~As shown in table 1, most~~ Most supernatants contained anti-CD40 antibodies, which displayed agonistic activity in this assay. Supernatants were arbitrarily subdivided into four different groups on the basis of their performance in the THP-1 assay (strong agonists with an OD of >2.000, intermediate agonists with an OD between 1.000-2.000, low agonists with an OD between 0.375-0.999 and non-agonists with an OD <0.375).